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Summary record of the 1st meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 11 March 2015, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Patriota ..... (Brazil)
later: Mr. Skoog ..... (Sweden)

Contents

Adoption of the agenda

Draft report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its eighth session

Election of Officers

Workplan of the Peacebuilding Commission

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda (PBC/9/OC/1)

1. *The agenda was adopted.*

Draft report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its eighth session (PBC/8/OC/L.1*)

2. **The Chair** recalled that the draft report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its eighth session (PBC/8/OC/L.1*) had been provisionally approved by the Organizational Committee during informal consultations, pending its translation into all United Nations official languages. He noted that section III of the report set out the framework for the Commission's work in 2015 and that the report would be considered by the General Assembly and the Security Council. It was his understanding that the Committee was ready to adopt the draft report.

3. *It was so decided.*

Election of Officers

4. **The Chair** said that, in view of prior consultations among regional groups and members of the Organizational Committee, it was his understanding that the Committee was prepared to elect the new Chair and Vice-Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission.

5. *Mr. Skoog (Sweden) was elected Chair by acclamation for a one-year term ending on 31 December 2015.*

6. *Mr. Patriota (Brazil) was elected Vice-Chair by acclamation for a one-year term ending on 31 December 2015.*

7. **The Chair** said that the Commission had agreed that the Chair would preside over the Organizational Committee and meetings of the country-specific configurations, unless the Committee decided otherwise. In that regard, the Chair of the Commission would preside over the Liberia configuration and the Vice-Chair would preside over the Guinea-Bissau configuration.

8. *Mr. Seger (Switzerland) was re-elected as Chair of the Burundi configuration; Mr. Hilale (Morocco) was elected as Chair of the Central African Republic configuration; Ms. Lucas (Luxembourg) was elected Chair of the Guinea configuration; and Mr. Rishchynski (Canada) was re-elected as Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration.*

9. *Mr. Yoshikawa (Japan) was re-elected as Chair of the Working Group on Lessons Learned for a one-year term ending on 31 December 2015.*

Statement by the outgoing Chair

10. **The Chair** said that the convening of the Organizational Committee had been delayed owing to issues with the election process, which served as a reminder that, even ten years after its inception, the innovative election process associated with the Peacebuilding Commission continued to challenge many of the regional groups and the Secretariat.

11. He thanked the Commission members for entrusting Brazil with the chairmanship in 2014. The Commission must continue to catalyse the international community to offer its sustained attention to countries emerging from conflict as they took strides on the path to peace, stability and development. The Commission could make its partnerships with such countries even more productive by ensuring that its objectives were context-specific, carefully articulated and thoroughly communicated to all relevant stakeholders at Headquarters and in the field. Under his mandate, country-specific engagements had been most appreciated whenever the Commission made use of the political weight of its membership. Member States could also enhance the relevance of the Commission's advice by advancing their common positions within other inter-governmental platforms.

12. The collective and determined action taken by Member States during the early stages of the Ebola outbreak demonstrated the ways in which the Peacebuilding Commission could play to its political strengths; it had helped spur the international community and other parts of the United Nations system to focus on the risks the crisis posed to the peacebuilding gains made by the three affected countries. As a result, the terms of reference of the Ebola-recovery initiatives led by the United Nations included areas identified by the Commission as deserving of special attention.

13. The Commission was uniquely placed to promote greater harmony between the subregional, regional and international dimensions of post-conflict response. In that regard, a priority area in 2014 had been to work directly with the African countries on its agenda and establish dynamic partnerships with African regional and subregional organizations. The Commission's experience with Burundi, the Central African Republic and Guinea-Bissau had confirmed that greater regional

* Subsequently circulated as document A/69/818-S/2015/174.

and subregional coherence was critical to supporting peacebuilding-related efforts. He recommended that his successor should continue to engage with African Union members in New York and, if possible, with the African Union's Peace and Security Council in New York and in Addis Ababa.

14. In 2014, the Peacebuilding Commission had convened its first ever annual session with a view to determining what types of intergovernmental policies were needed to help countries reduce the risk of conflict. As it continued to explore various avenues for predictable financing, the Commission's focus on domestic resource mobilization and the fight against illicit financial flows would be critical to identifying possible policy areas requiring Member States' individual and collective action. The challenge posed by illicit financial flows and systemic gaps in intergovernmental policy related to financing for peacebuilding highlighted the interdependence of security and institutional and socioeconomic initiatives. The Commission must continue to promote greater coherence in policies and actions across the political, security and development dimensions of peace consolidation.

15. Member States should reflect further on the nature and scope of the Commission's advisory function to the Security Council and the General Assembly. The Commission was uniquely positioned to complement the work of those bodies by ensuring that inclusive socioeconomic development contributed to peace and security and reduced the risk of relapse into violent conflict. When speaking at various Security Council briefings and debates in 2014, he had stressed that, based on its advisory function, the Commission could help the Security Council to strengthen the integrated and long-term commitment of the United Nations and international and regional actors to countries emerging from conflict. The Security Council could draw more practically and systematically on the Commission's advice, particularly when the mandates of United Nations missions were being reviewed in the context of changing priorities or drawdown and transition processes. In that regard, he called on those Commission members that were non-permanent or permanent members of the Security Council to provide leadership, guidance and a sustained commitment.

16. The gender dimension of peacebuilding deserved the Commission's continuing attention and commitment. While women endured the tragic consequences of violent conflicts, they were also the main agents for societal transformation in post-conflict societies. The special session the Commission had hosted in collaboration with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in September 2014 had shed light on local peacebuilding initiatives led by women in diverse contexts.

17. The ten-year review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture to be conducted in 2015 offered a timely opportunity to ensure that the Commission's role as an instrument of strategic utility to the United Nations was strengthened and that its approaches were adapted to changing circumstances. The terms of reference for the review (A/69/674-S/2014/911), which had been developed by the Commission, would help to identify areas of progress and remaining gaps in international assistance to countries emerging from conflict. The agreement to ground the review in specific country studies, to be conducted by an advisory group of experts, was intended to help the Security Council and the General Assembly place the challenges, needs and aspirations of countries emerging from conflict at the core of future efforts.

18. The Commission would continue to count on the Peacebuilding Support Office in order to implement its ambitious workplan. The Office's competent management of the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund, which was increasingly gaining credibility across the United Nations system, would also be important. The work undertaken by the Commission and the Fund would foster complementarity between the political and programmatic dimensions of peacebuilding, which in turn would generate better results from the investment in the countries concerned.

19. *Mr. Skoog (Sweden) took the Chair.*

Statement by the incoming Chair

20. **The Chair** said that his delegation would seek to build on the achievements of Brazil's successful chairmanship and further enhance the relevance and effectiveness of the Commission. In 2015, a number of pivotal high-level conferences would call upon Member States to strengthen their multilateral response to global challenges. It was also a critical year for the United Nations peace and security strategy, as both the ten-year review of the peacebuilding architecture and the review of peace operations would take place. The Commission must seize those opportunities to better equip the United Nations to meet increasingly complex global security challenges, including through ensuring

better support for countries emerging from conflict to achieve sustainable peace and development.

21. Noting that 2015 marked the tenth anniversary of the Commission, he recalled that it had been established with the goal of filling an institutional gap in the United Nations system. The Commission's initial objectives had been to improve strategic planning for sustained peacebuilding; support efforts to strengthen national institutions; ensure predictable and flexible funding; improve coordination of international post-conflict activities; and provide a forum in which troop contributors, bilateral development partners, regional actors and, most importantly, the countries concerned, could come together to ensure greater coherence in the support offered. That vision remained relevant and attainable.

22. As Chair, Sweden's main priority would be to make the biggest possible difference for the countries seeking the support of the Commission. In that regard, the Commission should continue to strengthen its convening role. He would also aim to work closely with all of the country configurations in order to find ways for the Organizational Committee to add further value to country-specific work; listen carefully to the States on the agenda and build on their best practices; and engage with other countries emerging from conflict on ways in which the Commission could provide them with relevant and flexible support.

23. In addition, in line with the agenda set out in the report on the Commission's eighth session (PBC/8/OC/L.1*), his delegation had set four priorities for the next six months. First, as Chair, he would act as a convener in the peacebuilding review process, ensuring the broad participation and buy-in of stakeholders. He would also seek to facilitate informal expert-level discussions on relevant topics that could provide further input to the review process. Second, he would aim to ensure that peacebuilding priorities were included in the Ebola recovery effort. In that regard, he recalled that the three most affected countries, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, were all on the Commission' agenda and that in November 2014, the Commission had requested the Secretary-General to conduct an assessment of the impact of Ebola. Going forward, drawing on the discussions of the high-level conference on Ebola, held in Brussels on 3 March 2015, the Commission should seek to accelerate support for institutional capacity-building for the affected countries.

24. Third, the Commission should support and coordinate with regional organizations, in particular the African Union. Based on the efforts of the outgoing Chair in 2014, including his visit to Addis Ababa, the Commission should explore how to best draw upon its partnerships with various regional organizations and aim to develop joint strategies. Member States should also analyse how to improve their collaboration with regional and sub-regional organizations in support of the countries on the Commission's agenda.

25. Financing for peacebuilding would be Sweden's other major priority. The Commission's 2015 annual session, for which the proposed topic was predictable financing for peacebuilding, would generate important input for the peacebuilding review process. He also hoped that the session would build on the political momentum generated by the third International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Addis Ababa in July 2015, and that the findings of the annual session would have an impact on the outcome of that Conference. In follow-up to the 2014 annual session, his delegation planned to organize a meeting with the former President of South Africa, Mr. Thabo Mbeki, to discuss the findings of the joint African Union-Economic Commission for Africa High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows out of Africa.

26. Sweden was a long-time supporter of United Nations peacebuilding efforts. His Government was a top contributor to the Peacebuilding Fund and his delegation had served as Chair of the country-specific configurations on Burundi and Liberia. He hoped to bring that commitment and relevant experience to Sweden's chairmanship.

Workplan of the Peacebuilding Commission

27. **The Chair** said that paragraph 72 of the Commission's draft report on its eighth session (PBC/8/OC/L.1*) set out specific actions for the Organizational Committee with a view to improving the Commission's working methods and enhancing the clarity of its objectives and the predictability of its activities. In that connection, Commission members had received a proposed workplan for the Organizational Committee and the planned activities of the Chair. He also drew the Committee's attention to the suggested theme for the Commission's 2015 annual session, "Predictable financing for peacebuilding: breaking the siloes", which had been chosen in order to consider policies that could facilitate the release of more sustained funding for peacebuilding priorities. The Committee would discuss and agree on the

sub-themes for the annual session. He invited the Committee to provisionally approve the proposed workplan and theme of the annual session.

28. *It was so decided.*

29. **The Chair** said that the Committee was invited to designate Malaysia as coordinator of the periodic stock-taking exercise of the Commission's advisory function to and modality of interaction with the Security Council, as agreed in prior consultations, and pursuant to paragraph 70 of the report on the eighth session (PBC/8/OC/L.1).

30. *It was so decided.*

31. **Mr. Fernandez-Taranco** (Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support) said that Brazil's chairmanship had made 2014 one of the most productive years for the Peacebuilding Commission. The Commission had held its first annual session, which had focused on regional efforts to respond to the challenge posed by illicit financial flows, in the context of the special needs of countries emerging from conflict. The Commission had also played an important role in drawing attention to the peacebuilding-related implications of the Ebola crisis, confirming the importance of the need for an intergovernmental platform for a comprehensive and long-term response. Furthermore, the Commission had also developed the substantive terms of reference for the upcoming ten-year review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture.

32. Sweden was assuming the chairmanship in a year when several interlinked reviews and intergovernmental processes were taking place. He was confident that under its leadership, the Commission would serve as a platform for Member States to convene relevant actors to reinforce those linkages. Key topics on the Commission's 2015 agenda, such as Ebola recovery efforts, the mainstreaming of a regional perspective and the strengthening of its advisory function to the Security Council, were relevant not only to countries on the Commission's agenda, but also to the wider United Nations system response to post-confliction situations. The Commission's convening role would help ensure that the priorities of countries emerging from conflict would be taken into account in the outcome decisions of intergovernmental processes. It would also ensure that the efforts of Member States, the Secretariat, and United Nations funds and programmes in support of such countries would be coherent and mutually reinforcing.

33. The Commission must reach out to a wide range of partners both within and outside the United Nations system, including international financial institutions and regional organizations. The Peacebuilding Support Office was committed to providing continuous support to the Commission, including by ensuring the practical support of senior management and the engagement of relevant United Nations system entities. The Peacebuilding Support Fund had encouraged system-wide coherence by demanding a common strategic vision for countries undergoing a peaceful transition process. While the Fund was becoming a credible and viable instrument, it remained a marginal actor because of its modest size. The proposed theme for the Commission's 2015 annual session was therefore a welcome development; securing adequate financing was a concern in all of the ongoing reviews and intergovernmental processes. The Commission was in a position to facilitate broad-based discussions on the policies, instruments and resources required to prevent conflict and sustain peace. In that regard, it should reflect on how its core functions applied to specific contexts, including by deciding on the scope and timeline of its engagement.

34. **Mr. Hilale** (Morocco) said that the theme of the 2015 annual session addressed the critical need for sustainable financing for peacebuilding and the challenge of mobilizing funds. His delegation supported the goal of strengthening the Commission's role as a platform for dialogue between regional and subregional organizations, which would help prevent relapses into violence.

35. In his capacity as Chair of the Central African Republic configuration, he had recently met with representatives of the State Department of the United States of America and the World Bank to discuss the potential funding of projects. He had encouraged the provision of assistance for activities relating to the constitutional referendum and the 2015 elections to be held in the Central African Republic, which would support the consolidation of peace. He had also met with representatives of that country's Government in order to prepare a report on the situation on the ground, which would be discussed by the Security Council in April 2015.

36. **Mr. Rishchynski** (Canada) said that the planned meeting on illicit financial flows, an issue that adversely affected the consolidation of peace efforts in configuration countries, was critical. He hoped that the work undertaken during the 2015 annual session would provide concrete touchstones for addressing financing

issues in a more robust manner. In the context of the 2015 review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, the Commission should strive to implement the forthcoming recommendations of the advisory group of experts and the recommendations emanating from the Secretary-General's review of peace operations and from the review of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

37. Ebola recovery must continue to be a major focus of the Commission and the relevant country-specific configurations, including through engagement with key stakeholders, United Nations country teams, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the affected countries. Their peace consolidation gains must not undermined by the devastating consequences of the outbreak. As Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration, Canada had aimed to provide the best response to the Sierra Leone Government's needs and to galvanize, in conjunction with the configurations of other affected countries, the United Nations system and multilateral partners to respond during the recovery phase. The Sierra Leone configuration planned to convene a briefing in April 2015, during which UNDP was expected to report on progress made towards Ebola recovery, to be followed by a visit to the country by the configuration on Sierra Leone, potentially in conjunction with the configurations on Liberia and Guinea. The challenges identified in the Commission's report (PBC/8/OC/L.1*), including shortcomings in the areas of basic social services, governance, social cohesion and public confidence in Government, would continue to require attention during the recovery period. The Sierra Leone configuration would work with relevant United Nations actors to address those challenges and support the efforts of the Government.

38. The root causes of conflict required long-term engagement. If not approached conscientiously, challenges relating to youth unemployment, security, the justice sector, transparency, corruption and national resources management could impede or derail progress made by countries on the Commission's agenda. It was thus encouraging that Sierra Leone's Government had identified those challenges in its Agenda for Prosperity and was taking active steps to address them through mobilizing its own resources and working with development partners. As recovery progressed and the 2017 elections approached, collective efforts must be taken to ensure that Sierra Leone could continue to address those challenges successfully.

39. **Mr. Okamura** (Japan) said that the Working Group on Lessons Learned had issued its final report on the transition processes of United Nations missions in December 2014. In 2015, the Working Group would discuss the need to re-establish State authority to better protect the welfare and security of people and normalize political processes through strengthened political institutions. By examining the experience of specific countries, the Working Group hoped to explore ways to expand the reach of core State institutions, including judicial systems and security institutions, beyond major cities in the aftermath of conflict. It also hoped to discuss ways to ensure adequate financing for institution-building in post-conflict settings. The Working Group planned to hold meetings on special topics relating to institution-building and would submit a report on the issue. Those discussions would also serve as preparation for the Commission's 2015 annual session and would contribute to its 2015 review.

40. **Mr. Patriota** (Brazil) said that the democratic elections held in Guinea-Bissau in 2014 had resulted in a dramatically different agenda for the Guinea-Bissau configuration in 2015. The new Government authorities had shown their commitment to achieving prosperity, stability and lasting peace. While divisions remained, with adequate support, progress was possible. The upcoming roundtable in Brussels for donors of Guinea-Bissau would set the stage for the full re-engagement of the international community with that country. In that context, Guinea-Bissau's Government would present a ten-year national strategy for social progress aimed at promoting strong governance and institutional reforms based on a model of inclusiveness and tolerance as well as the sustainable and equitable use of the country's natural resources. Guinea-Bissau would require the configuration's political, technical and financial support to carry out its human development programmes centred on the priority areas of education, jobs, health and social services. The configuration was focused on providing support in the area of security sector reform, a particularly delicate issue, and would call upon international partners and friends of Guinea-Bissau to support the reform process and to help the Government to ensure that actions were anchored in a national dialogue and reconciliation framework.

41. **The Chair**, speaking in his national capacity, said that, as Chair of the Liberia configuration, he would promote national ownership over the peacebuilding process. During a recent meeting with the President of Liberia, he had commended the efforts and resilience

of her Government in response to the Ebola outbreak and had underlined the Commission's willingness to continue supporting the country's recovery. The President had reported that, while 2015 had been an extraordinarily challenging year, life was slowly returning to normal in Liberia; no new Ebola cases had been reported for two weeks, the economy was gradually recovering and schools were reopening. The Government was finalizing a plan in response to the transition of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), which could serve as the basis for the Commission's future work with Liberia.

42. Country-specific configurations had played a key role in the Ebola response; they had reacted quickly, holding a meeting in August 2014 to draw international attention to the outbreak and had held a subsequent meeting in November 2014 which had resulted in a call by the Secretary-General to conduct an Ebola recovery assessment. Going forward, the configurations should build on those efforts by ensuring that peacebuilding priorities were adequately reflected in the Ebola recovery framework and that funds were mobilized for those priorities. In that context, he sought to participate in the upcoming roundtable on Ebola, hosted by the World Bank.

43. Drawing on the best practices identified by the Working Group on Lessons Learned, the Commission could play a key role in contributing to the seamless transition of responsibilities from UNMIL to national authorities, in line with Security Council resolution 2190 (2014). That process would involve close collaboration with members of the Security Council. In the upcoming months, the Commission must focus on providing a platform for coordinating Ebola recovery efforts and UNMIL transition processes, which would involve integrating development and security priorities relevant to peacebuilding, facilitating international coordination and promoting the mobilization of resources. In the light of those considerations, an updated statement of mutual commitments would need to be developed. His visit to Liberia would provide an opportunity to meet with national stakeholders and gain first-hand perspective to better guide the Commission's efforts.

44. **The Chair** said that the representatives of Switzerland, Luxembourg, Guinea and Liberia had asked to participate in the discussion of the item under consideration.

45. *At the invitation of the Chair, Mr. Seger (Switzerland), Ms. Lucas (Luxembourg), Mr. Diallo (Guinea) and Mr. Patten (Liberia) took places at the Committee table.*

46. **Mr. Seger** (Switzerland) said that the conduct of upcoming elections in Burundi in a spirit of openness, transparency and inclusiveness would represent a crucial milestone towards the consolidation of peace in that country. The Burundi configuration would focus on supporting the country during that critical period and, in that context, had been cooperating closely with the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Electoral Observation Mission in Burundi (MENUB.) The upcoming visit by the Permanent Representative of Switzerland to Burundi would provide an opportunity to continue the configuration's work with its partners from Government, civil society and political parties. Prior to his visit, the configuration would be consulting with the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General and Head of MENUB via videoconference. The Burundi configuration would draft and present to the Government an outline of the support that the Peacebuilding Commission would continue to provide beyond the 2015 elections, including in the areas of development, job creation and private investment.

47. **Ms. Lucas** (Luxembourg) said that efforts to assist Guinea should aim to guarantee the country's recovery from the social and economic damage the Ebola outbreak had caused. The Guinea configuration had an important role to play in strengthening social cohesion and State institutions, a top priority for the recovery process. In that context, the configurations on Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea must continue to work together and in close cooperation with regional and subregional organizations, particularly the Mano River Union, to ensure an effective recovery process. As it had done during the legislative elections in 2013, the Guinea configuration was prepared to support Guinea in organizing free and credible local and presidential elections in 2015, on the basis of the agreement concluded on 3 July 2013 between the Government and the opposition.

48. Support for the three priority areas defined under the statement of mutual commitments between Guinea's Government and the Commission had been eroded by the Ebola outbreak and must be strengthened. As determined during the second review of the statement of mutual commitments, the Guinea configuration must continue to focus on strengthening national reconciliation, combating impunity and promoting the revitalization of constitutional institutions in order to strengthen democracy and the

rule of law. It must also continue supporting the implementation of the activities outlined in Guinea's national strategy, particularly the reform of the justice sector and correctional system and the identification of actions that promoted the creation of long-term and decent employment for women and youth. The configuration was developing a more detailed workplan in collaboration with its partners and aimed to organize an initial meeting between its members and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa.

49. **Mr. Diallo** (Guinea) reiterated his Government's willingness to cooperate with the Commission in implementing its peacebuilding commitments. Under the leadership of the outgoing Chair, the Commission had played a crucial role in mobilizing the international community to mount an effective response to the Ebola outbreak and its consequences. Guinea was experiencing an unprecedented health crisis. While trends observed in recent weeks had been encouraging, it would be crucial to remain vigilant and mobilized as Ebola continued to claim victims and affect all aspects of the country's socioeconomic life. In addition to resulting in a tragic loss of human life, the epidemic had posed a threat to the considerable progress Guinea had made, with the support of the Commission, in the areas of economic growth, social cohesion, political democratization and security. The outbreak had also given rise to new challenges in the social sphere, including the stigmatization of affected families, orphaned children of victims, survivors and burial teams, an issue of great concern to the Government and its partners. Efforts must be redoubled to achieve the target of zero Ebola cases by mid-April 2015, as proposed by the Heads of State and Government of the Mano River Union at its Extraordinary Summit on 15 February 2015. Guinea would require international assistance in the medium and long term in order to achieve full economic and social recovery. In that regard, he welcomed the planned visit to Guinea by the Guinea configuration and the proposal by the Permanent Representative of Canada to organize a joint visit by the configurations on Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia to those countries.

50. The significant mobilization of the international community to promote the socioeconomic recovery of countries affected by Ebola was welcome. In that regard, the Commission had an important role to play in addressing the priority needs identified by the Governments of those countries. The urgent implementation of actions to increase the employment of youth and women, as set out in the statement of mutual commitments between Guinea's Government and the Commission, could serve as a starting point for preserving economic and social gains. His Government had been working to guarantee the transparency of the upcoming elections and hoped that the international community would lend the necessary support to meet the deadlines for implementation of international commitments.

51. **Mr. Patten** (Liberia) said that the importance of the Commission in promoting stability in countries emerging from conflict could not be overemphasized. Under the leadership of the outgoing Chair, the Commission had undertaken significant efforts to review its activities over the past decade and to draw international attention to the Ebola crisis through organizing joint meetings between the configurations on Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Although Liberia had recently discharged its last Ebola patient and had reported no new infections in over two weeks, it could not be declared Ebola-free until the situation in Guinea and Sierra Leone had improved. Renewed efforts must be made to ensure that those countries, still in the throes of the epidemic, were given the necessary support to eradicate the disease. The transition plan currently being prepared by Liberia's Government would identify the role of the Commission in implementing the Government's priorities. His delegation welcomed the new agenda of the Liberia configuration and affirmed his Government's fullest cooperation in implementing it.

52. *Mr. Seger (Switzerland), Ms. Lucas (Luxembourg), Mr. Diallo (Guinea) and Mr. Patten (Liberia) withdrew.*

53. **Mr. Mamabolo** (South Africa) said that the decline in the number of new Ebola cases reported in Liberia was a testament to the effectiveness of the work carried out by the country's leadership and people. He welcomed the proactive steps taken by most African countries in addressing the crisis. His delegation welcomed discussion of means to ensure the effective recovery of the affected countries. While official development assistance was a crucial element, efforts must also be undertaken to reverse the marginalization of those countries and attract investment in their economies. In that context, the issue of illicit capital flows must also be addressed.

54. **Mr. Cardi** (Italy) said that Italy was fulfilling its peacekeeping commitments, devoting special attention to issues related to institution-building in different

areas of operation, including Lebanon, Kosovo and Afghanistan. Italy was committed to ensuring that peacebuilding efforts received the necessary political and financial support, with a view to preserving investments made peacekeeping. In that context, he hoped that the Commission would focus its efforts on certain areas of instability closer to Italy.

55. His Government remained firmly committed to peacebuilding. In particular, the Community of Sant'Egidio had promoted an inter-religious and political mediation process in support of the Central African Republic which had culminated in the signing in Rome of an appeal for national reconciliation by the leaders of that country. Promoting an inclusive political process was key to reinforcing national ownership and leveraging local expertise and capacity in United Nations peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts. An inclusive approach must also be taken towards gender-related issues, which should be at the heart of all peacebuilding efforts. The 2015 review of the peacebuilding architecture and the assessment of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) should be carried out synergistically. In addition, priority should be given to strengthening the Commission's relations with regional and subregional organizations. Italy welcomed the planned focus of the Commission's 2015 annual session on financing for peacebuilding and supported the Commission's decision to follow up on United Nations Ebola recovery initiatives. His delegation emphasized the need for peacebuilding to become a central pillar of United Nations interventions in crisis situations. In that regard, it would be necessary to review the balance between the Organization's mediation and peacebuilding capacities and its peacekeeping mechanisms.

56. **Mr. Rajah Zaib Shah** (Malaysia) said that the progress made by the countries on the Commission's agenda was encouraging, although concerns remained regarding the possibility of relapses into conflict. The volatile security and humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic in particular demanded the attention of the international community; the Commission's engagement with the country must resume as soon as possible. Coordination between United Nations agencies and partners remained a key challenge to assisting countries emerging from conflict. The ten-year review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture was a timely opportunity for Commission members and other Member States to take stock of the system and develop remedial measures. Given the links between peacebuilding, peacekeeping and the status of women, the outcome of the multiple reviews related to those issues that would take place in 2015 should be mutually reinforcing.

57. The Commission's engagement with regional organizations was encouraging. In that regard, the complementarity of efforts was important to consolidating peacebuilding. Support was needed for a common position within the African Union concerning areas to be addressed in the ten-year review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture. As the response to the Ebola outbreak had demonstrated, the Commission played an instrumental role in directing the international community's attention to critical situations and coordinating the efforts of regional and subregional partners. The Commission had also played a key role in building the capacity and resilience of affected countries; in that respect, Malaysia would contribute US$100,000 to the multinational trust fund for that purpose. As a non-permanent member of the Security Council, Malaysia would strive to coordinate the efforts of the Council and the Peacebuilding Commission.

58. **Ms. Mejía Vélez** (Colombia) said that effective peacebuilding required appropriate funding, strengthening of national capacity and national ownership over the process. During its 2011-2012 membership on the Security Council, Colombia had organized the first interactive dialogue between the Council and the Peacebuilding Commission. Her delegation would continue to promote increased contact between the Council and the Commission. The ten-year review of the peacebuilding architecture must emphasize coherence and synergies within the United Nations system and recognize the importance of the Peacebuilding Commission to preventing a relapse into conflict in the countries of concern. Her delegation supported the theme of the Commission's 2015 annual session, as ensuring predictable funding was a key task. Lastly, she emphasized the critical role women played in preventing conflict and consolidating peace.

59. **Mr. van Oosterom** (Netherlands) said that his Government's priorities of peace, justice and development were embodied in the work of the Commission, which was why the Netherlands was a major donor to the Peacebuilding Fund. As a member of the Commission, the Netherlands would work to increase financial contributions to peacebuilding efforts, including by involving non-traditional donors; enhance cooperation between countries on the Commission's agenda and regional organizations;

strive to improve coordination within the United Nations system; and promote coherence between the various review processes under way.

60. **Mr. Nitzschke** (Germany) said that recent turbulent events underscored the need for the Commission and the broader United Nations peacebuilding architecture to play a more active role in preventing crises and for adequate resources to be provided to that end. In that regard, Germany had contributed €6 million to the Peacebuilding Fund in 2014. Ensuring adequate international attention and more predictable funding would go a long way towards addressing conflicts. The Commission's 2015 workplan and annual session should address the need for more effective use of the funds available. The Commission should also aim to provide a better understanding of the economic and political grievances that were often the drivers of conflict. It was hoped that the ten-year review of the peacebuilding architecture would also lead to more substantive role for the Commission to address conflicts worldwide.

61. **Mr. Bishnoi** (India) said that it was important to recall the principles of peacebuilding, which aimed to build infrastructure and stabilize societies in order to prevent their relapse into conflict. While external guidance was necessary to the process, it should not be offered at the cost of the national agenda. National Governments bore the primary responsibility for identifying peacebuilding priorities and strategies in order to ensure their ownership over the process. Although the Security Council had been increasingly concerned with peacebuilding in recent years, its deeper engagement was critical to ensure lasting peace in those countries assisted by the Commission. Peacebuilding initiatives were most successful when they were anchored within a larger peace process. That required the international community to provide predictable resources over an extended period of time.

62. **Mr. Espinoza** (Chile) said that effective peacebuilding required an inclusive development process that aimed to strengthen institutions and establish a society free from discrimination that recognized women as leaders in preventing violence and agents of progress. While the Peacebuilding Fund had proven to be an effective tool, the funding it provided was insufficient. In that regard, his delegation supported the proposed theme for the 2015 annual session; finding sources of long-term funding for peacebuilding activities should be one of the Commission's priorities. As a non-permanent member of the Security Council, Chile would work promote the Commission's advisory role to the Council.

63. **Mr. Lee Moon Hee** (Republic of Korea) said that effective peacebuilding depended on strong political leadership, sustainable financing, national unity and social cohesion. As such, national ownership should be a key component of any peacebuilding process. His delegation welcomed the Commission's workplan and proposed theme for the 2015 annual session; those plans were an encouraging sign of improvement in the Commission's working methods. His delegation stood ready to share with the Commission the experience of the Republic of Korea in the areas of post-war nation-building, economic development and the promotion of human rights.

64. **Mr. Charles** (Trinidad and Tobago) said that, without peacebuilding, the international community would be remiss in its efforts to guarantee the sustainable development of conflict-affected countries and discussions on the post-2015 agenda would be incomplete. Predictable financing was a crucial component of all peacebuilding efforts; without it, discussions surrounding those efforts would amount to mere rhetoric. He underscored the important role played by the Chairs of country-specific configuration in ensuring that the international community continued to recognize the importance of peacebuilding within international peace operations.

65. **Mr. Ismail** (Egypt) said that the comprehensive review of the peacebuilding architecture would be a key step towards elevating the role of the Commission, adapting its agenda to current and emerging needs, and addressing existing gaps in peacebuilding practices. His delegation welcomed the appointment of the advisory group of experts and looked forward to the briefing by its Chair. The topic of the Commission's second annual session was important, as resource mobilization presented a major challenge for countries emerging from conflict and remained a decisive factor in the rebuilding of State institutions.

66. **Mr. Heen** (Nigeria) said that the Commission's emphasis on forging greater regional coherence was welcome; as a regional approach was key to helping countries avoid a relapse into conflict. The regional aspect of peacebuilding deserved special attention in the context of the 2015 review of the peacebuilding architecture. That process should benefit from Africa's expertise and experience in peacebuilding, including the views of countries emerging from conflict, the African Union, African subregional organizations, such

as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the South African Development Community (SADC), and countries in post-conflict phases. He commended the Commission's participation at the workshop on regional aspects of peacebuilding, hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt and the Cairo Center for Conflict Resolution and Peacekeeping in Africa, with the support of the Peacebuilding Support Office, and hoped that the lessons learned at the event would inform the 2015 review.

67. The core functions of advocacy, accompaniment and sustaining attention should remain the focus of the activities of the country-specific configurations, particularly during the transition and drawdown of United Nations missions in countries emerging from conflict. He commended the Commission's efforts to ensure that the drawdown of the United Nations Office in Burundi did not result in gaps in the international community's attention and commitment to peace consolidation in that country. The Commission had played a key role in in drawing attention to the potential threat the Ebola outbreak posed to peace, security, local governance, political institutions, social cohesion, economic recovery and peacebuilding gains.

68. He noted with satisfaction the Commission's support for anchoring the 2015 review in country-specific case studies and hoped that the review would highlight broader thematic and institutional challenges, such as the mobilization of domestic resources, the curbing of illicit financial flows and the negotiation of balanced natural resource contracts. The priority accorded by the Commission to advancing women's participation in post-conflict political and development processes was encouraging, as women and children were particularly vulnerable during conflicts. His delegation also supported the views on security sector reform, human rights, justice sector reform and food security set out in the Commission's report (PBC/8/OC/L.1), as inadequate attention to those issues could generate tensions that could result in violent conflict.

69. **Ms. Gilmutdinova** (Russian Federation) said that her delegation supported the modalities for the 2015 review of the peacebuilding architecture that had been agreed upon by Member States. In the context of that review, she trusted that the recommendations of the advisory group of experts would improve the effectiveness of the Commission's work. Commending the vigorous efforts of country-specific configurations, she emphasized that their work should be conducted in line with the peacebuilding priorities of the countries on the Commission's agenda and respect their sovereignty and territorial integrity.

70. Her delegation welcomed the successful post-conflict recovery efforts in Burundi, where peace, stability and security were being restored. However, the renewed crises in the Central African Republic and South Sudan, with incursions by outside actors, were indicative of inadequate planning and priority setting. Those cases should be analysed thoroughly in order to avoid similar experiences in the future. Efforts must be made to increase the capacity of countries affected by the Ebola outbreak to withstand crises, an endeavour that would require coordinated financial support from the Peacebuilding Fund and strong cooperation among Peacebuilding Commission members, including new members.

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.